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20 November 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Building Planning Staff
Office of Logistics

THROUGH : Acting Director of Logistics

SUBJECT : Dedication Ceremony - New Atomic Energy Commission
Building.

1. Attached is a copy of the program used at the dedication ceremony of the new Atomic Energy Commission building which I attended with the Director on 8 November.

2. I saw John Derry there who, incidentally, was very upset that their exercise was pretty well marred by a downpour of rain. They had invited a number of important personages, including some ambassadors, who got very wet indeed inasmuch as there was room for only a couple of dozen people under cover on the rostrum with the President. However, he said that they had deliberately decided forty-eight hours before the festivities not to protect against the possibility of rain since it would have cost an additional \$10,000. In this connection he commented that all of the arrangements for the ceremony itself had cost \$20,000.

3. You will note that they combined in one ceremony the laying of the cornerstone and the dedication of the building. Mr. Strauss, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and Congressman Durham, Chairman of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, participated in the laying of the cornerstone. It seemed to me that John had several trowels--apparently silver or chrome-plated--with the names of the individuals using them engraved thereon. I talked to him briefly about all of the arrangements and he told me that he had a great deal of information as a result of his experience which he would be glad to make available to us. I would suggest that you get in touch with him at an early date in order to obtain this material and get the benefit of his experience while it is still fresh in his mind.

4. I pointed out to the Director that the Atomic Energy Commission had delayed the laying of their cornerstone until this late date and again suggested that I saw no point in hurrying with this ceremony for our building. He seemed to agree but asked me to explore the matter further and see what the custom was, whether it followed any particular pattern, etc. I wish that you would undertake this at an early date.

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5. You will note on the back of the program a list of items which have been placed in the sealed box behind the AEC cornerstone. Before too long we should start the wheels rolling to determine what we would wish to put behind our cornerstone. Your suggestions as to how we might get started on this will be appreciated.

6. The Director also inquired as to whether we had given any thought to an inscription for our building. I told him that I had not and that frankly I did not know what the practice was for governmental buildings. He seemed to think that some inscription would be in order and said that he had thought of "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make ye free." I have since learned that this is a quotation from the Eighth Chapter, Thirty-second Verse of the Bible according to Saint John. I would also appreciate it if you would explore the custom on this.

/s/

L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

1 Att: Program for "Dedication of
the U. S. Atomic Energy Commis-
sion Headquarters Building."

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